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PATENT  
Atty. Dkt. ROC920010064US1

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of:  
Bates et al.

Serial No.: 09/848,573

**Filed: May 3, 2001**

Confirmation No.: 6829

For: **Systems and Methods for  
Operating Vending Machines**

Group Art Unit: 3627

Examiner: Fischer, A.

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

**CERTIFICATE OF FAX**  
**37 CFR 1.8**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the Patent and Trademark Office to fax number 703/872-9306 to the attention of Examiner Andrew J. Fischer on the date below:  
 January 7, 2005  
 Date Gero G. McClellan

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

**Prior to examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:**

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge counsel's Deposit Account No. 09-0465, the fee of \$50 for one dependent claim in excess of 20 and for any fees, including excess claim fees, required to make this response timely and acceptable to the Office.